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VOP OUTLINES FATAH'S PROJECT FOR NATIONAL UNITY

JN171947Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The political editor of the newspaper FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, central organ of the PLO, has learned that after approving the final formula for the national unity project, the Fatah Central Committee has made urgent contacts with brother Khalid al-Fahum to hold a new session of the Central Council in order to enable Fatah to submit its project for achieving complete national unity among the factions of the revolution.

Fatah's project is divided into three parts: The first deals with the current situation, the second with the consolidation of national unity, and the third with the military decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The project comprehensively covers all aspects of the current situation. It lays down as fact that the next stage will be filled with the most violent struggles with the Zionist enemy, U.S. imperialism and its agents. It notes: We will be victorious only if we strengthen our national unity and intensify our military effort and capability. The national unity project adds that the failure of their plots will motivate the hostile forces to strike the Palestinian revolution from within by starting peripheral struggles and dismembering the ranks of the revolution, with all excuses and under all pretexts, in order to pave the way for internal division. This makes it incumbent upon us under the current circumstances to safeguard national unity just as we safeguard our eyes.

The project goes on to analyze the inevitable commitment of all factions of the revolution to a rejection of all capitulatory settlements, the U.S.-Israeli settlement, and As-Sadat's initiative and its impact, which have led to Arab division and rift.

In its second part the project affirms that the Palestinian national charter, the previous resolutions of the National Council and the spirit of the Tripoli charter constitute the program on which national unity is based. The PLO--its forces, organs and institutions--guarantee the implementation of all documents. The Fatah Central Committee then draws up its organizational chart for the factions of the revolution within the PLO framework.

In its third part the project puts the military decisions adopted by the PNC and proposes them to the Central Council as the bases for military unity among the factions of the revolution.

The editor says that the issuance of this project at this particular time will cut off the advocates of division who are attempting to disrupt the Palestinian arena in the service of imperialist-Zionist objectives.

PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET ON 22 AUGUST

JN161352Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 16 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 August--The Secretariat of the PLO Central Council has invited the council's members to attend the meeting of the Central Council under Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on 22 August. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, says that the discussions at this meeting will center on Palestinian national unity as well as on the promotion and bolstering of relations between the Palestinian revolution factions. The latest developments will also be discussed.

BAHRAIN

POSSIBILITY OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC DENIED

OW170953Y Paris AFP in English 0823 GMT 17 Aug 78 OW

[Text] Manama, Bahrain, Aug 17 (AFP)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied reports that Bahrain will soon be establishing diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ SAYS ISRAEL PLANS TO TORPEDO CAMP DAVID TALKS

LD180848Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 18 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Jidda, 18 Aug--The paper 'UKAZ stresses that the statements of the day before yesterday by the prime minister of the Israeli enemy, Menahem Begin, and his foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, are definite pointers to Israel's premeditated intentions to torpedo the Camp David summit conference proposed by President Carter to propel the Middle East crisis along the road to peace.

In its daily comment, the paper says that Begin's statement about the failure of the conference and the Dayan statement about backing the Phalangist militia, which are preventing the legitimate Lebanese Government from controlling Lebanese territory, are an extension of the policies of successive governments in Israel since 1948.

'UKAZ accuses Israeli officials of wasting time, during which they are proceeding with precision and accurate timing and with the backing of world Zionism to implement a general plan of expansion at the expense of Arab territory. The paper says that the Islamic and Arab solidarity advocated by the late King Faysal, and which the kingdom continues to advocate, has become necessary in order to counteract this Zionist plan.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTER AS-SUWAYDI MEETS WITH ERITREAN OFFICIAL

JN171511Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 August--UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi met here today with Ramadan Muhammad Nur, secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi as part of a tour of several states in the region.

After the meeting, Ramadan said that As-Suwaydi confirmed the UAE's support for the Eritrean people's struggle for freedom and independence. As-Suwaydi also stressed the importance of unity between the groups of the Eritrean revolution in order to confront the Ethiopian aggression and realize the Eritrean people's aspirations.

The Eritrean official added that during the meeting a review was made of developments in the military and political situation in Eritrea and the revolutionaries' stand in repulsing the Ethiopian regime's onslaughts.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STOPOVER IN SHARJAH

JN161800Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1640 GMT 16 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Sharjah, 16 August--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj made a 1-hour stopover at Sharjah International Airport this evening en route to the Sultanate of Oman. He was received at the airport by the YAR ambassador to the UAE and chief of protocol in Sharjah, Sultan as-Suwaydi.

In a statement at the airport, Al-Asnaj said that he is pleased with the existing relations between the YAR and the UAE. He added that he is carrying messages to officials in the gulf states to be conveyed by the YAR ambassadors to these states.

YEMEN--PDRY

MUHAMMAD ISSUES AMENDMENT TO LAW, MINISTERIAL DECREE

LD172004Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, today issued an amendment to Government Improvement (?Law) No 22 of 1973: The minister of state for the affairs of the Council of Ministers will be under the minister of justice and religious affairs. The 2d article says that this amendment is part and parcel of Law 22 of 1973. The third and the fourth articles provide for the law to take immediate effect and to be officially gazetted.

The brother chairman of the presidential and ministerial councils also issued a ministerial decree which appointed brother Major 'Abd Rabbuh Husayn Musawwar as director of the people's police in the Third Governorate. The decree says that any previous appointment to the position is now null and void and that the appointment should be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKERS

NC171515Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1243 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[President as-Sadat's speech delivered during his meeting with the leaders of public transport workers in Alexandria 16 August--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, my brothers and sons: I have sought to meet with you, but I have never asked for anything like this. When visiting the transport workers--up to this date I still retain my membership card in the trade union--I consider myself to be at home and among my family and brothers. I did not want these formalities. Therefore, God Willing, we should meet once again in an atmosphere completely different from these formal arrangements.

Really, for a long time I wanted to meet with you because I lived among you for long periods of time. I was happy to be your colleague, and we worked together in the transport sector. I thank God that my fellow transport workers gave me security and safety when I was wanted by the state and the British.

Today, thank God, we are free of all these enemies whether they were the king's men, the British colonialists or the old parties which existed before 23 July, and which greatly harmed the country. There was a class which monopolized power. This was the class of the pashas and beys and a limited class which got everything while all of us in the broad base got nothing. Judgment was passed on us that our sons would receive no education because we could not afford the fees. Only they were able to afford this and hence their sons were educated. There were no equal opportunities for our sons. This is our homeland and birthplace. God granted all this to us, including the Nile.

Before the 23 July Revolution, the words of the peasants and of the workers were considered an insult.

When they recently set up parties in one of the professional trade unions, some of them claimed that the question of 50 percent [representation] for the workers and peasants does not exist anywhere in the world. They were establishing a party, exploiting the name of the old Al-Wafd Party. I see that the majority of you are young people who did not see the old campaigns. Muhammad Sami [not further identified] was present there with me. I also see some of you who were present at the time, but they seem to be a minority like me. [laughter]

We suffered from such a system before the 23 July Revolution. The 23 July Revolution broke out in order to create a state for the people--for an overwhelming majority of the people. The workers and peasants constitute more than 95 per cent of the population. 50 percent for them is not too much. Some people still question this and say that nowhere in the world does such a system exist, that such a system is new and so forth.

On 15 May 1971 when I staged the corrective revolution, you and all our people responded to the revolution. We purged the centers of power, I closed the detention camps forever, we drafted a permanent constitution and began the establishment of the state of institutions. There is the cabinet as the executive authority, the parliament as the legislative authority, and the judiciary as the judicial authority. As you know, we are adding the press as a fourth authority. Why are we adding the press as a fourth authority? You heard me saying yesterday that regrettably some people still have wornout concepts.

It is just like the person in the bar association who asked how come the workers and peasants are given 50 percent. There are some journalists with outworn concepts, that is, those that existed before the 23 July Revolution.

The freedom of the press which I allowed in 1974 came with the abolition of the detention camps, the supremacy of the law, and security and safety for every citizen. I granted freedom of the press in 1974, immediately after the battle. Some took freedom of the press to mean that in order to show his power and give prominence to his work a journalist has to defame the various establishments, the cabinet, the parliament and the ministers, and cast doubt on the officials in a manner you are well aware of. This is not freedom and this is not what freedom of the press means.

As you know, I will never go back on democracy and freedom, not at all, nor will I go back on the supremacy of the law. I will allow nothing to threaten any citizen on the soil of Egypt, particularly the broad base of the masses. As part of this base we suffered very much until our will prevailed on 23 July 1952. Some 26 years ago we opened the door for the broad base of the real people, not that 1 percent of the people [who enjoyed all the privileges before the revolution], not at all. We took our country and the fate of our country in our own hands. Nobody will ever take that away from us. No foreigner or anyone at all, no self-seeking people and no opportunists at home will ever be able to take that away from us. We will never allow it. We will crush anyone even before he tries to control our fate once again.

We want to build a democracy and establish real freedom, freedom felt by everyone. We also want to give our country prosperity. The broad base of the people that lived in deprivation for centuries in the past has a right to live and to enjoy a high standard of living. The peasants and the workers have a right to have television sets, radios, gas stoves and cars. Why not?

The other day I saw a French film. A worker in a new bakery had a small car. It is a small car similar to the car which your brothers at the factory gave me as a present, the new 127 model. They presented me with the first car they produced. It is the same car I used to come here today. Why should not our peasants and workers enjoy this standard of living. This is our target. The way to do it, as you have said, is production. We have no alternative to production. Production is your responsibility.

Some difficult days lie ahead. I will not give you high hopes. No. I say difficult times lie ahead, 2 difficult years until 1980 when food and housing will be sufficient. As far as food is concerned, God willing it will be available in 1980, and everyone will have a sufficient amount of food, whatever his salary or income. As far as housing is concerned, the crisis will be eased by then. I cannot say that by 1980 the housing problem will be solved completely. We are on our way. This means that we must work hard, produce and sweat.

As I have told you, today we are our own masters in our country. Nobody controls us any more, be it foreign imperialism, royal family, a class of pashas, or the 1 percent rulers who had everything and we had nothing. No, our country now belongs to us. We want to build prosperity with our own hands, with our work and sweat.

You heard me say yesterday that in our country now, since we are the broad base and not like those people I have mentioned, we will not do what they did. We will not take away anyone's freedom. However, everyone must do his duty to the state, and everyone must participate in providing security for every Egyptian. This is why I have said that security is essential for the peasants and workers before anyone else--security in cases of disability, illness, old age and death. Everyone must have a pension, absolutely.

Last winter, you probably have heard, I toured [areas] and saw for myself. I tell you with extreme happiness and reassurance that the resources we have, the still unexploited resources, are sufficient for our 40 million to live comfortably and enjoy the highest standard of living. Really, everyone can have a television set, a car, a refrigerator and so on. The resources are there. What is needed is hard work. Almighty God has endowed this country with its good climate. Until this year we have been confining ourselves to the narrow strips of the delta and upper Egypt. When I visited the new valley, I saw millions of feddans. There is water there. All that is needed is that we exert ourselves and work, and in 3 months we can have a crop. The first crop in 3 months.

I am proceeding with the green revolution that you have heard about. In the course of the green revolution, if anyone of you wants to own land--a part of the new land--I will give him land. I have agreed with Muhammad [not further identified] that I will withdraw all the state's Chevrolet and Mercedes cars and hand them over to the [transport workers] union, which will in turn give them to the drivers, and the union will pay me in installments. The number [of cars] will be very large. This is for the purpose of solving the transportation crisis.

Democratic socialism means giving ownership. I must give everyone of you ownership of a piece of land or a car. God willing I will see to it that you will all get ownership. As I have told you, we have all that is necessary. It is all there. In the past we never looked and were also not aware of our population growth rate. As I have said, there was a time when I had to borrow to buy food for the country. I got supplies for the country on credit. It is a great calamity for one to have to borrow to eat. Well, how is one to repay the debt? One has to borrow in order to build, and from the income derived from the building he has to find money to buy food. Some 2 years ago I had to buy the supplies on credit.

Thank God, we are now proceeding on the road of food security. As I have told you, the opportunities are available. Having risen in your midst, my hope is to give you ownership, God willing, and you shall have ownership of land, a house and a car. It is possible, as I have said, but what is needed is that we sweat and work hard for 2 or 3 years, and then we will reap the fruit.

We have short term planning up to 1980 and long term planning which, God willing, will take us to the year 2,000. [applause] We must change many ideas. We must all change the country. In the old aristocratic rule, one calling on the king had to wear a special striped suit. A pasha had to wear a special type of suit and the bey a different suit, and other dignitaries also had to wear a special type of suit. Well, this is all over for good. Politics is no longer a matter of striped suits. It is work and effort to raise the standard of everyone, and it means a pension for everyone in Egypt, male and female. This is what I am engaged in doing.

As far as your insurance is concerned, I have for a long time, even before the National Democratic Party came into being, been telling Muhammad about the matter of the insurance. How long has it been, Muhammad [addressing a certain Muhammad in the audience]? 3 or 4 years?

In the next phase and in the new party, my sons, we want to rebuild Egypt and restore Egypt's genuineness. We will allow nothing to break national unity. Anyone of us who feels anything should--and one has representatives--speak out loudly and clearly. This is because we all as one family should handle out affairs, study our problems and come up with solutions.

I promise you as I promised you before, and you know me, as far as I am concerned preference will only be based on the degree of work and sweat. It will never be based on whose son one is or what family he comes from, or if he is the son of a rich man or anything like that. Not at all. Merit to me means work, and this is what will happen in the party, and I told them about this yesterday. Preference goes to hard work and sweat and to those who give for Egypt. My sons, when one gives to Egypt, he will be serving himself. I have said that every person must have his identity. I promise you that every one of you must own a home and a car in the future. One must have a home and a piece of land. This is available here. The Nile valley has a narrow strip but there are millions of feddans elsewhere in the country which I really saw in person. I called in the experts. We have the best experts in Egypt recognized by the world and the United Nations. I called them and I personally inspected everything. I told you that we have the potential, but what is required is hard work, sweat and production.

My sons, this is your problem. You had achieved a miracle in the beginning of 1970. I will not forget it. I always recall this at every meeting with the workers of Egypt. The Jews raided and struck at Abu Za'bal where 70 to 80 workers were killed. Those killed could have been 800 since the raid took place during the morning shift change. But God willed it that the timing be wrong. The raid took place 5 minutes before the new shift had arrived, and 70 workers were killed. If the new shift workers had arrived, there would have been 700 killed.

You recall that at that time we had built the missile sites in 40 days. About 40 million pounds worth of construction had taken place; that is, the work done in a single day was worth 1 million pounds. Engineers, workers and the plans were purely Egyptian. The work was done by 'Uthman contracting engineers. [applause]

My sons, no one believed that this miracle was accomplished in 40 days, that work worth 40 million pounds was carried out in 40 days. That was needed immediately in order to protect our country. This was achieved by the workers of Egypt. They did it again in crossing the Suez Canal behind the armed forces. You have protected the backs of your sons and brothers, officers and men of the armed forces.

Now in the green revolution, I ask for your efforts. I promise you, workers of Egypt, not only the transport workers, that each of you will own a piece of Egypt. I promise you this since the land is available. All I am asking for is that we work harder in accordance with the world's concepts of work. Science has advanced greatly, and many things which we understand and follow have changed. This is especially true in agriculture, where many things have changed and production has increased. Each feddan, through the use of modern and scientific methods, will yield three times more than it is yielding now under the old system we have been using.

We will gradually progress because nothing can be accomplished overnight. All this needs time. I am happy. I hope to meet with you and your brothers employed in all types of work. God willing, this will take place continuously. As you have seen, since last winter and even before, I have personally been going out to inspect everything. I have to present to you and to the people correct statements. You and I have been accustomed to present facts without exaggeration and false hopes. Never. I present facts to you.

Sweat and effort is what is required. Every citizen in Egypt, of the 40 million people, has his position and also property. I will seek to achieve this, God willing. This is simply democratic socialism. I do not wish to use terms on socialism and words written in books. No. We are implementing these in our democratic socialistic life, in equal opportunities and in a good standard of living enjoyed by every person. Your sons will receive education and you will be able to build for your sons and the generation after, giving the state its due.

As I told you, a basic step in the organization is that the green revolution be accompanied by security. Each citizen will feel secure of his present and future, and his sons and grandsons after him. I hope to meet with you and your brothers the workers of Egypt. I did not want all these formalities. I wanted to sit with you and talk of the past, the present and the future. We must have our dialog and every person is required to contribute toward the building of his country by sweat, efforts, and thought and by everything, because all these are for his benefit. In this way we can build Egypt--noble, faithful, solid and tolerant Egypt. Egypt is forgiving, not rancorous. Egypt contains tolerance, love and fraternity. Let us uphold our origin as before and leave out all that is imported and has caused a division among us. Attempts used to be made to split the people between masters and slaves. We got rid of all this. Thank God, we are all masters in our land and slaves to the Almighty God.

May God grant you success and may I always meet with you while you enjoy the best. [applause]

COMPARISON OF TEXTS OF AS-SADAT 15 AUGUST SPEECH

NC161917 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1242 GMT on 16 August carried a recording of the speech given by President as-Sadat at the 15 August meeting of the provisional Constituent Committee of the Egyptian National Democratic Party. The radio version has been compared with the referent MENA version published in the Egypt section of the 17 August DAILY REPORT. The versions are identical with the following exceptions:

Page D 2: The radio version omits the first two sentences of the second paragraph.

Page D 4: The radio version provides the following additional passage at the end of the first paragraph: There will never be a place in the course of our action for reports by which any person will be condemned without being confronted. Never. When I assumed office, I summoned the group who constituted the centers of power and told them: Listen: 'Abd an-Nasir, may God rest his soul, had his own style. As you may have read in the book, he was suspicious and nervous by nature. After 'Abd an-Nasir, may God rest his soul, died, I summoned those who constituted the centers of power and told them: Listen: My style is completely different.

Page D 5: The radio version reads as follows from the end of paragraph three to the end of the third sentence in paragraph four: I consider what has been written to be an incitement against the assembly. I talked about the honesty of the pen. On 14 May, the People's Assembly dismissed all the centers of power, its speaker and his 2 deputies, and 17 members.

When I told the People's Assembly that Russia will not be reassured until we conclude a treaty with it, please approve such a treaty so the Russians can give us weapons to complete our battle, the assembly approved it. When I dismissed the Soviet experts, the assembly took a stand. The assembly also took a stand in October. When in 1976 Russia refused to supply us with spare parts and imposed an embargo on us, I went to the assembly and told the members: The people I told you we should make a treaty with have not honored their pledge, and they are people who want to impose their will on us. Let us revoke the treaty. The assembly suspended the treaty.

Does this mean that the People's Assembly, in all their developments, had no opinion? No. The People's Assembly, like the true broad base of our people, is very alert. When I approached it to conclude the treaty, it knew that I was in a tight spot with the Russians. When I approached it to revoke the treaty, it knew that we had carried out our battle and that the Russians were trying to impose their will on us.

Page D 8: The radio version reads as follows for the last two sentences of paragraph five: Had I not introduced the economic open-door policy in 1976, we would have eaten each other and risen up against each other. The country would have been closed and would have been shut off to science--the science which is making strides each day. We would have no connection with the world and would not be clinging to our roots. We would have been up in the air. We would have been left without roots, without origin, and would have lagged behind the world by hundreds of years.

Page D 10: The radio version provides the following passage in place of the second sentence of the first paragraph: So computers were fed with information about the situation in Egypt and Israel. The computers were fed with this information not only in Egypt, but also in the United States, England and all over the world. There was one answer: Egypt, beware of making war. It will be disasterous to you. Kissinger told me about it later. When he was informed that Egypt and Syria had attacked,he told me: I gave it a maximum of 1 or 2 hours, because we had it calculated by computer a long time ago. These people will not last more than 1 or 2 hours, and everything will be over.

SNA: AS-SADAT TO CANCEL SINAI AGREEMENT IF TALKS FAIL

LD171826Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 17 August--It has been learned that President Anwar as-Sadat will abrogate the second Sinai agreement and refuse to renew the mandate of the UN emergency forces in Sinai in the case of a failure of the Camp David meeting, which will be held on 5 September. It is known that the second Sinai agreement is due to expire next October.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON RECENT BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC1720000Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The Prime Minister of Israel Should Stop His Sterile Outbiddings Before and During the Camp David Conference"]

[Text] International political circles are unanimous that the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli summit conference scheduled to be held at Camp David in about 2 weeks will be decisive as far as agreement on the principles for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East is concerned. This is why careful preparations must precede the conference to allow the clarification and crystallization of the positions of all parties on all aspects of the Middle East problem. A first requisite in this scrupulous preparation is that outbiddings should stop for the remaining period before the conference, especially by the Israeli Government.

We say that Menahem Begin's government must refrain from outbidding because persisting in these worthless tactics could cast a shadow on the conference even before it convenes and could give rise to doubts as to whether the conference would produce important results. An example of the outbidding we are talking about is yesterday's ambiguous statements of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, as reported by news agencies. The Israeli prime minister said that if the peace treaty sought by Israel is not achieved then Israel will be willing to negotiate at Camp David about establishing peaceful relations that would take the form of a partial settlement with Egypt. It is a fact well known by the Israeli prime minister that Egypt is not after a partial settlement or a separate solution, otherwise it would have negotiated such a settlement from the very beginning.

The Israeli prime minister also knows that the obstacles on which the peace talks have stumbled since the Egyptian peace initiative are his position and the position of his government on the question of Palestine. Egypt is fully committed to the principle that Israel must withdraw completely from all the territories occupied during the 1967 aggression, and that the Palestinian people are entitled to the rights of self-determination and of setting up their independent state.

Menahem Begin's suggestions, stripped of the twisted way in which they were worded, indicate that they are nothing but an attempt by Israel to annex the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem. The question is: If Egypt is committed to the settlement of the Palestinian problem on the basis of international legitimacy and the UN resolution, how can the Israeli prime minister imagine that Egypt could engage in negotiations for a partial settlement at Camp David?

The Israeli prime minister has also said that should it prove impossible to conclude a comprehensive treaty immediately, Israel would suggest settlements of a permanent nature, rather than of a temporary nature, as the case has been. He added that this would call for concessions from both sides.

The only thing we can say about this is to state the fact that the Israeli prime minister is outbidding in advance. He is also overlooking the fact that it is not up to Israel alone if it wants to steer the Camp David conference toward serving its aggressive and expansionist objectives. The Israeli prime minister will do well to stop the one-upmanship and to take matters more seriously as the Middle East problem approaches a decisive point.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

NC172150Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat attended prayers at the Sayyidi Abu al-'Abbas al-Mursi Mosque in Alexandria this evening. After the prayers he met with representatives of the fishermen's association in Alexandria and Maryut.

Governor of Alexandria 'Abd at-Tawwab Hudayyib, the shaykh of the fishermen, 'Ali Ruzayq; and the secretary of the fishermen's association, Khalil Farghali; were on hand at the mosque to welcome President as-Sadat. The shaykh of the fishermen delivered a speech in which he thanked the president on behalf of the fishermen of Alexandria and Maryut. He declared that the fishermen of Alexandria have decided to join the National Democratic Party. He said: We are with the president's party. We are the soldiers of Egypt and we support the hero-leader who has honored our homeland and our nation.

President as-Sadat spoke to the representatives of the fishermen of Alexandria and Maryut. He said: On behalf of your brothers, the sons of Egypt, I ask you to exert greater efforts in order to contribute to the efforts of providing food for the Egyptian people. The president said: Your homeland asks for efforts and sweat from every worker in order to build an affluent society.

President as-Sadat has issued instructions to the governor of Alexandria to grant pensions to fishermen who are over 65 years of age as of the beginning of next month. The president also issued instructions that 10 fishermen, to be chosen by their association, should make the pilgrimage to Mecca at the party's expense.

The shaykh of the fishermen presented to President as-Sadat a document of support from the fishermen of Alexandria and Maryut. The president also signed an application to join the fishermen's association.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO ADDRESS RALLY 22 AUGUST

NC172013Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will attend the political and popular rally which will be held on Tuesday evening [22 August] at the people's hall in the town of Tala. He will speak about the national democratic rally and will announce his candidacy for the Tala constituency, in addition to five other members. The rally will be attended by the members of the National Democratic Party in the constituency.

INCREASE IN U.S. TECHNOLOGICAL AID REPORTED

NC162019Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Egypt and the United States today signed an amendment to the agreement signed between them last March on U.S. technological aid for Egypt and development of Egypt's manpower. The March agreement was for $3 million. U.S. Embassy sources in Cairo said after the signing that under the new agreement Egypt will get $1 million in addition to the $3 million, bringing the total to $4 million as a grant for 1978. The $4 million will be used in developing technological skills and improving the standards of Egyptian scientists and technicians by sending them on training scholarships in the United States.

MINISTER OUTLINES POLICY TOWARD PALESTINIANS

JN171639Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 August--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has stated that Iraq supports the Palestinian gun provided that it is carried by a Palestinian struggler rejecting capitulation. In an interview published today in the newspaper AS-SUMUD, organ of the Palestinian rejectionist front, Hammudi said that Iraq does not dictate any course of struggle to any Palestinian party.

Hammudi said: We are partners with the Palestinian revolution and in the struggle. Our dispute with certain rightist elements in the PLO leadership is in line with the struggle against capitulation. Our opinion of the Palestinian rightists is the same as our opinion of any Arab rightist regime, Hammudi added.

Hammudi pointed out that the Palestinian question is the central issue for the party and revolution in Iraq. He said that Iraq, which has adopted a firm and principled attitude toward this issue and has emphasized the right of the Palestinian people to regain their land and set up their own democratic state, has always formulated its Arab and international relations in light of the stands of the regimes and forces toward the Palestinian question.

Asked about Iraq's real position concerning the front of steadfastness and confrontation and about Iraq's call to establish a truly effective front to mount the battle of liberation, the information minister said that the Iraqi position is based mainly on the premise that As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine was the result of a capitulatory course in which several forces participated. He said the visit in itself could not be isolated from these circumstances.

He added that it would be a big mistake to isolate As-Sadat's visit from its roots and branches. Steadfastness and confrontation should not be confined to the visit and its impact but should include the previous march. The information minister said that what is required is a real, serious and practical stand that will insure the prerequisites for aborting and torpedoing the capitulatory scheme, and not just a condemnation of As-Sadat's treacherous visit.

Hammudi said that what happened in Tripoli was a desperate attempt to balance the course of settlement with the course of liberation. He pointed out that Iraq had asked the conferees in Tripoli to adopt a clear and specific stand toward the settlement, whether it would take place in Geneva or anywhere else. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi pointed out that the front of steadfastness and confrontation has so far done nothing and that the Arab masses have so far remained aloof from this front because it has been incapable of facing up to the developments in which As-Sadat carried on his initiative and the enemy invaded southern Lebanon.

He added: We believe in the setting up of an Arab progressive and national front in which all popular and official potentials are mobilized and in which there is a clear and defined plan of struggle for ending the state of collapse and deterioration in the Arab situation. He pointed out that Iraq continues to pursue the course it had proposed for the front of steadfastness and confrontation. He said Iraq considers this a practical basis from which to confront the vicious imperialist onslaught.

He said Iraq will shoulder the biggest responsibilities politically, militarily and economically in the proposed front. He added: This is natural because this position is commensurate with our principles and stands.

JOINT AGRICULTURAL, SUPPLIES COMMITTEE ENDS MEETING

JN171703Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 17 August--The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Agricultural and Supplies Committee today ended its 3-day meeting held under the chairmanship of the ministers of agriculture and supplies of the two countries.

Marwan al-Qasim, minister of supplies, has called for the formulation of a program concerning the economic and social situation in the two countries that will confront all pressures. He stressed the need to proceed in a serious spirit in order to achieve the objectives drawn up by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He called for reliance, first and foremost, on the local production and capability of the two countries, in their role as one country, in order to formulate a better economic and social plan.

Muhammad Ghubash, Syrian minister of supply and internal trade, confirmed that such meetings would benefit the two countries from the agricultural and supplies aspect. He added: Our agreements are commensurate with the objectives of our Arab people and are being implemented on the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as on the instructions of the Higher Committee and its assertion of the need to expedite the work on what has been agreed upon, particularly in the field of supplies.

The committee stressed the need to balance the prices of foodstuffs in the two countries in order to put an end to the illegal entry of commodities across their borders.

The committee decided to form a joint committee from the Ministries of Supplies of the two countries to study the factors creating the difference in prices of basic commodities in the two countries. This committee will meet in Amman as soon as possible. The committee also decided to form another joint committee that will meet twice a year to follow up implementation of this agreement and to surmount any obstacle that might arise.

SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC171151Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 0930 today, President Ilyas Sarkis received former President Sulayman Franjiyah. The meeting lasted until 1200.

Franjiyah stated later: My visit was to thank the president for his sympathy on our bereavement, nothing else.

The following dialog took place with former President Franjiyah: Asked about the subjects discussed with President Sarkis during this meeting, Franjiyah said: There was only a review of the situation. Asked whether President Sarkis gave him a message to President al-Asad in view of his [pending] visit to Latakia, Franjiyah said: No.

Asked if he carries specific solutions in relation to the situation in Lebanon for discussion with President al-Asad, he said: The visit is to thank the president for his sympathy, nothing else.

To a final question, former President Franjiyah said that he would spend the night in Latakia.

Travels to Syria

JN171601Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Syria via Al-'Aridah at noon today, accompanied by 'Abdallah ar-Rasi, northern Lebanon deputy, and Ramiz al-Khazin, director general of the Presidential Palace. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border post in Al-'Aridah by Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services; Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs; and the governor of Tartus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Franjiyah said: Had it not been for President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative in confronting Lebanon's painful ordeal, this ordeal would have played havoc with Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He added: All Lebanese people are indebted to Syria for preserving their unity and the unity of their soil. Had it not been for Syria, Lebanon would have been lost.

President Hafiz al-Asad is scheduled to receive Franjiyah later today in the Presidential Palace at Latakia.

BUTRUS MEETS WITH SENEGALESE CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC171158Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Text] There was diplomatic activity at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry today, centered on the situation in southern Lebanon and the military unit in Kawkaba.

Within this context, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus met with Senegalese Chief of Staff Gen Idrissa Fall, who arrived in Beirut yesterday. The meeting was attended by the Senegalese ambassador to Lebanon and the commander of the Senegalese contingent in the south. The visit was of a protocol nature on the occasion of General Fall's arrival in Beirut.

At 1000 today, Minister Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker, who was accompanied by the embassy's first secretary.

Ambassador Parker said later: We discussed the situation in southern Lebanon in light of the talks held yesterday between Lebanese officials and representatives of the UN forces. Asked if there are new developments, he said: There are no new developments.

Minister Butrus said that the U.S. ambassador called to inform him that he was leaving on a few days vacation. Minister Butrus added: I discussed current affairs with Ambassador Parker on this occasion.

Regarding reports about the renewal of the deterrent forces' mandate and contradicting political views and the government's stand, Minister Butrus said: I have nothing new to say on the subject. It is not related to me personally. He added: Whatever is said on the subject, we read in the newspapers. The government will adopt an appropriate decision at the right time. I see that each side has its viewpoint; this shows that vitality is present.

Asked about the government's views, he said: The government will adopt an appropriate stand at the right time.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON PARTITION

JN172102Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1800 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement has affirmed that the security partition [at-taqsim al-amni] of Lebanon will eventually be the basis for the political and administrative partition. The council said that the Zionist-isolationist alliance benefits from the official approach of the authorities and tries to impose a complete Israeli form of security on the south and an isolationist form of security on the capital and other areas under the isolationist front as a prelude to imposing its hegemony on all the country.

In a statement issued after its meeting yesterday, the Central Political Council called on the Lebanese authorities to confront Israel in the south and to use the deterrent forces in the remaining Lebanese areas to coordinate security measures and oppose the isolationist pressure.

BEIRUT PORT TO RESUME OPERATION 18 AUGUST

NC171216Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Within the framework of efforts made for the reopening of Beirut Port, and following the relaxation in the security situation, it has been decided to resume the operation of Beirut Port and to call upon all those employed in this sector to report to work as of tomorrow morning.

INA: Rightists Prevent Opening

JN181001Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 18 August--The rightist militias opened fire this morning on Beirut harbor and prevented workers and employees who were reporting to duty from getting to work.

An INA correspondent reports that two shells were fired toward the harbor. At 1030 several bursts of machinegun fire came from positions opposite the harbor on the Charles Hilu Bridge. The fire was aimed at the approaches to the harbor and the docks. Workers and employees fled; soldiers in the area hid behind barricades. The harbor remained closed.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES FRANJIYAH, MEETS PRESS

JN172120Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency Sulayman Franjiyah, former president of Lebanon, arrived at the Latakia Presidential Palance at 1730 today accompanied by Dr. 'Abdallah ar-Rasi and Mr Ramiz al-Khazin. They were warmly received by President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad then met with His Excellency President Franjiyah. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services; Adib Milhim, minister of presidential affairs; and General Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the general staff of the armed forces.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Hafiz al-Asad made a statement to the press in which he warmly welcomed President Franjiyah and lauded his principled and firm stand.

President al-Asad answered questions put by journalists accompanying President Franjiyah. The president said: I strongly welcome my dear friend President Sulayman Franjiyah and the brother members of the delegation. I feel great happiness at receiving President Franjiyah in Syria, his second homeland. President Franjiyah is sincere and faithful. He made sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon and for the sake of the Lebanese people. He struggled to achieve the victory of Lebanon and the victory of the Arab nation. President Franjiyah remained true to the Lebanese honor and to the far and near interests of Lebanon. He was never polluted by becoming a protege for a foreigner and never soiled his hands by dealing with the enemy in any form. President Franjiyah remained an honest defender of Lebanon and of every Arab cause. As a president of Lebanon he went to the United Nations to speak in the name of all the Arabs defending the Palestinian cause. The Zionist intelligence network tried to harm him because of this stand. This is well known to the Lebanese and the Arabs. Franjiyah remained true to his noble national line. He did not deviate from this line under pressure or under any inducement. In this regard he told a famous Western diplomat who visited the area many times after the October War and who had a prominent role in the post October events: The fate of the Zionist Jews will not be better than the fate of the Crusader invaders. The Arabs were able to expel the invaders after 200 years and the fate of the Zionist Jews will not be different. I wish that you Westerners could know this fact soon.

President al-Asad added: I find it very useful that all the Lebanese and the Arabs should know what President Franjiyah said to that Western diplomat who is well known in the region. I must also point out the great role played by President Sulayman Franjiyah in consolidating the fraternal relations between Syria and Lebanon. Nobody will forget that these relations were strengthened during the reign of President Franjiyah and due to his desire to make these relations attain the level they did at the time. I would like to point out to all the Lebanese and Arab brothers that President Franjiyah has always been concerned with Lebanese national unity, both during his term of office and at the present time. He always exerted his efforts to forge this unity and this is corroborated by his words and deeds when he was president. Today he is still struggling to achieve this aim. I would like to assert that we were greatly pained at President Franjiyah's affliction. The disaster also pained the officials and people of Syria. On this occasion I offer my condolences and those of all the Syrian citizens for the loss of the late Tony Franjiyah, his wife and his daughter and all those who were martyred.

We know that they were martyred because of their conviction and for their national and pan-Arab principles. These are the same principles and convictions of President Sulyaman Franjiyah and it is for these principles that the president is fighting. I repeat my welcome to President Sulayman Franjiyah in Syria among his brothers and his great family.

The president was asked whether there will be another meeting between him and President Franjiyah to evaluate the Lebanese situation. The president said: We will continue discussing everything and we will talk openly and in detail and on every issue. As you know the atmosphere between us and President Franjiyah allows the discussion of all things without reservations. President Franjiyah's opinion on the situation is very basic to us in Syria and I think this is well known.

The president was asked about his opinion on the security situation in Lebanon. He said: As is well known we were very careful in the past and we are now very careful to avoid the shedding of a single drop of blood in Lebanon. I do not think that there is a single fairminded citizen in Lebanon who does not see that we are as serious now as we always were to consolidate the security of Lebanon and to consolidate the Lebanese state and Lebanese legitimacy. This is what we are after and this will remain our goal. We are pained to find that there are people in Lebanon who do not appreciate this or who do not meet us half way over this issue in a practical way. We consider the Lebanese citizen as a brother and we consider him as we consider the Syrian citizen. We wish for the Lebanese citizen to live in security and peace and that his state later will be able to make available to him peace and stability. We are greatly surprised that there are people who do not realize this fact or who do not work for the establishment of security and the consolidation of the Lebanese state, the state of all the Lebanese people.

In reply to a question as to what extent Lebanon's fate is connected with the Middle East issue, President Hafiz al-Asad said: In Syria we always try to separate the two subjects. We worked in the past and are working now to separate the two issues. In my appraisal, had all those concerned who are talking about the Lebanese subject been sincere, theoretically and practically, it would have been possible to separate the two subjects. This is because the Middle East issue has existed since 1948. Why should the Lebanese subject be connected with it now? Therefore, it is possible to separate them on the basis that they have really been separated for quite a number of years.

Asked about his opinion on 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's talks with Lebanese officials, President Hafiz al-Asad said: You must have asked the Lebanese officials. All contacts are always useful. These contacts must always achieve progress. There is no doubt that the meetings achieved positive results and perhaps some people have sensed these results.

Asked whether there is a new Syrian move to help the Lebanese Army to entrench its position in the south, his excellency said: We always exchange views with the Lebanese officials and we offer as much assistance as we can. Naturally we believe that the state's authority in the south must be established regardless of obstacles. We believe that the Lebanese Government is capable of establishing its authority in the south despite the fact that Israel and its collaborators are trying to impede the state's sovereignty there. The state can do something useful by establishing its authority. At any rate, this concerns the Lebanese state, as far as I know. There is no difference between us and the Lebanese officials as far as this matter is concerned. They wish to establish this authority and so do we.

Asked whether there is a difference between Syria and the Lebanese officials over the implementation of what was agreed upon during President Sarkis' visit to Latakia, President al-Asad said: Had there been any differences, there would have been no agreement between us. Since we agreed to implement certain matters, there is no difference. Naturally, we agree on certain subjects, and the brothers in Lebanon are trying to work in accordance with the prevailing conditions there as well as in accordance with other conditions. However, although we generally agree on the subjects, the brothers later face obstacles in one way or another.

Asked about the Camp David conference and whether he sees any hope that it will contribute to the solution of the Middle East problem, President al-Asad said: Of course not. The Camp David conference is merely a new ambush against the Arab nation and the Arab cause and any expected results at this camp will only be against our interests; any results will not be in our interest. It has been reiterated that it is likely that the United States will adopt a stand as a result of this camp or this meeting, during it or after it. Even if this is true, this stand would not be in the Arab interest.

Asked whether he believes that the solution will come through Geneva, President al-Asad said: The matter is not defined so easily. There are several, but integrated, methods, and Geneva will not accelerate or decelerate matters except in accordance with the facts in the area and also in accordance with the material factors in this area. Geneva or the United Nations or any other international place may achieve the desire results.

Asked whether Jordan will participate in the Camp David talks, President al-Asad said: As far as I know, I do not believe that Jordan will participate. Jordan is not directly connected and does not wish to participate in everything going on now, whether it is Camp David or [word indistinct].

The meeting [between Al-Asad and Franjiyah] was resumed after dinner. The talks dealt with the various aspects of the Lebanese situation. The two men exchanged views on how to establish security, safeguard Lebanon's national unity and consolidate the legitimate authority in Lebanon.

Talks Resume in Latakia

JN181156Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Latakia--At 1030 today talks resumed between President Hafiz al-Asad and former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah at the Presidential Palace. The talks were attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Adib Milhim, minister of presidential affairs; Lebanese Deputy Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi; and Ramis al-Khazin [no title given].

At 1000 President Hafiz al-Asad and former President Sulayman Franjiyah met separately.

LIBYA

INA: IRAQI EMBASSY EMPLOYEE IN TRIPOLI SLAIN

JN171727Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 17 August--An employee at the Iraqi Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, was the target of a treacherous, cowardly attack as he was entering the embassy building.

The employee, Husayn Muhammad 'Ali, was hit by three bullets this morning and succumbed to his wounds a few minutes after entering a hospital.

Libyan citizens, in cooperation with the embassy staff, managed to capture the killer. He was handed over to Libyan security authorities, who have not yet given any information about the killer or his identity.

MAURITANIA

SALECK INVITED TO VISIT LIBYA NEXT MONTH

PA171725Y Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 17 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Aug (AFP)--Libyan head of state Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has invited Mauritanian leader Mustapha Ould Saleck to pay on official visit to Libya early next month.

The visit was to coincide with ceremonies commemorating the September 1, 1969 coup which brought Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to power in Libya.

Visiting Libyan Agriculture Minister Muhammad 'Ali at-Tabu, who arrived in Mauritania on Tuesday for a working visit, met President Saleck yesterday and handed over the invitation.

After the meeting, the Libyan minister said his talks had centered on prospects for bilateral cooperation.

On the Western Sahara, he said that his country had noted "with satisfaction that certain parties concerned were trying to correct past mistakes".

He added that Libya was committed to giving material, moral and political support to self-determination for each Arab citizen.

MOROCCO

HASSAN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM IVORY COAST PRESIDENT

LD171017Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, 17 Aug--King Hassan received Ivorian Minister of Foreign Affairs Simeon Ake at the royal palace of Skhirat [near Rabat] early yesterday afternoon.

Mr Ake was carrying a personal message from Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

SUDAN

OAU SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETS

LD171544Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Text] The committee for following up the implementation of the resolutions of the 15th African summit conference, formed by the president of the republic under the chairmanship of Mr Philip Obang, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, held its first meeting this morning at the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting discussed the committee's terms of reference and spheres of work and also reviewed questions submitted in the African arena with a view to studying and defining them [words indistinct] to discuss the method of the committee's work and its regulations.

Mr Philip Obang explained that the committee will coordinate work between the president of the republic and current OAU chairman and the organization's secretariat, its branch offices and the numerous committees set up by the summit conference to solve conflicts between certain African states. He added that the committee will analyze events in the continent and study and propose appropriate means of consolidating relations among African states in the organization through cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, Sudan's embassies abroad and the departments connected with the committee's activities, particularly the Foreign Ministry's African department.

TUNISIA

CARTER SENDS BOURGUIBA MESSAGE ABOUT CAMP DAVID MEETING

LD171748Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has sent President Habib Bourguiba a message through the U.S. and Tunisian embassies in Paris, informing him of the reasons which motivated him to take the initiative of arranging a meeting between Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and himself. The message was handed to President Bourguiba this morning by Hedi Mabrouk, Tunisia's ambassador in Paris.

FRG TO HELP TUNISIA DEVELOP INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

LD171716Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, 17 Aug 78--Under the terms of an agreement signed today in Tunis, the Tunisian Interior Ministry will get assistance from the FRG Interior Ministry to develop its intelligence services.

BRIEFS

NEW MOROCCAN PUBLICATION--Casablanca, 14 August--A new Moroccan weekly magazine by the name of AL-MASIR has been published. The magazine has no specific political inclination and aims at playing an effective role in serving the country's sublime interests within the framework of journalism. [Excerpt] [Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Aug 78 LD]

NEW TUNISIAN AMBASSADORS--Tunis 17 Aug--The YAR Government has agreed to the appointment of Kacem Bousnina as Tunisian ambassador to San'a' with residence in Jidda. The government of Bahrain has approved the nomination of Abdezzazak Chatta as Tunisian ambassador to Manama, with residence in Ad-Dawhah. [Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD]

TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ--Tunis 12 August--A statement issued yesterday by the Foreign Ministry said that Iraq has approved the nomination of Marwan Bin al-'Arabi as an extraordinary ambassador. Before this, Marwan Bin al'Arabi held the post of assistant director of the American and European department at the Foreign Ministry. [Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 78 LD]

MK ARENS ON CAMP DAVID PROSPECTS, ISRAELI STANCE

TA180826Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 78 p 13 TA

[Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman MK Moshe Arens commentary: "Chances and Risks"]

[Text] What are the chances of success of the Camp David talks and what is the degree of risk that these talks will end in controversy accompanied by feelings of disappointment, frustration and bitterness? The answer to this question lies in the answer to a prior question: What changes are required in the declared positions of Israel and/or Egypt for the sides to draw significantly closer to agreement? It is clear to all that the gap between the present positions of the two sides is significant and there can be no agreement without changes in positions.

It is natural to divide the issue on which negotiations between Israel and Egypt are being conducted into two categories: the problems of Israel's southern border (Sinai), and the problems of Israel's eastern border (Judaea and Samaria). The problems of the southern border are ones that directly affect relations between Israel and Egypt while the problems of Judaea and Samaria and of the Arab population dwelling in these territories is, first and foremost, an Israeli-Jordanian problem. One of the elements complicating the negotiations with Egypt is President as-Sadat's lack of willingness to limit the negotiations to the problems of Sinai and his desire to focus the deliberations mainly on the problems of Judaea and Samaria.

The gap between Israel's and Egypt's positions on the issue of Sinai is quantitatively small. In fact, Israel proposes restoring total rule over 96 percent of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. As opposed to this proposal, As-Sadat demands the return of every square meter of (holy) Arab land and the removal of the Israeli settlements. The ability to close this gap serves, perhaps, as a test of the ability to reach agreement at the present stage. If President as-Sadat is not prepared, or is unable, to moderate his declarations about the sanctity of every meter of land in Sinai and agree to a continued Israeli presence in certain places in Sinai, then it is difficult to believe in his willingness to come to an agreement.

As for Judaea and Samaria, the gap between the positions is much greater and could even be called polarized. Israel demands an IDF presence unlimited in time and place, while As-Sadat demands Arab sovereignty over the entire territory--a demand that is not in keeping with a continued IDF presence. Here, there appears to be no possibility of closing the gap, which is basically founded on Israel's serious security problems on the eastern border and on As-Sadat's unwillingness to recognize this consideration and agree to the necessary concessions.

Therefore, agreement at Camp David depends on As-Sadat's willingness to agree to a continued Israeli presence in certain locations in Sinai and the adoption of a formula that would enable the parties to set aside dealing with the gap in positions with respect to Judaea and Samaria. The "declaration of principles" was to be a saving formula of this kind. However, it is clear that the desire to include substantive elements in it defeats the purpose that it is to achieve. An Egyptian willingness to regard UN Resolution 242 as a satisfactory declaration of principles would have solved the problem. Any attempt to add more details to the principles of this accepted resolution will only serve to emphasize the gap between the positions and torpedo the talks.

One may ask: Is there no possibility for Israel to contribute toward closing the gaps by a willingness to concede on its settlements and bases in Sinai and agreeing to principles that would cast doubt on its continued military control in Judaea and Samaria? An examination of the political scene in Israel and the resultant limitations on the Israeli Government's freedom of action shows that even if he wanted to the prime minister would be unable to muster sufficient support for these changes in position. On the other hand, all that we know about As-Sadat's one-man rule in Egypt creates the impression that he could, if he wished, agree to the minor concessions required in Sinai and set aside the problems of Judaea and Samaria. This being the case, almost everything depends on him.

As is known, Camp David will not be only an Israeli-Egyptian arena. No less important than the participation of President Carter will be the role of U.S. public opinion. Therefore, in view of the real danger of President as-Sadat not agreeing to moderate his positions, the talks at Camp David might deteriorate into a contest for the support of U.S. public opinion, with each side attempting to transfer responsibility for the failure of the talks to the other side. This aspect is especially important in view of the U.S. administration's natural tendency toward standing by the Arab positions--due to oil and dollar problems--a tendency that can only be curbed by U.S. public opinion.

Which of Israel's positions can gain the understanding and support of U.S. public opinion? Certainly those positions which are in keeping with the accepted norms there. Three principles appear to be of special importance and, perhaps, Israel's tactics at Camp David should be shaped accordingly:

--Direct negotiations;
--Mutual concessions;
--Resolution 242.

Therefore, we can insist that the negotiations with Egypt focus on the issues directly affecting Israel and Egypt and not deal with the issues of Judaea and Samaria which directly affect Israeli-Jordanian relations, with respect to which Egypt has no authority to represent and sign on Jordan's behalf. Should Egypt still insist on the need to reach agreement on the principles along which the negotiations with Jordan are to be conducted, we should point to Resolution 242 as an applicable declaration which has the support of both sides as well as of the nations of the world. At the same time, we should insist on Egyptian concessions in Sinai in consideration for the far-reaching concessions included in the Israeli peace proposal. It appears that only these tactics can bridge the gaps between Israel's and Egypt's declared positions, and even if this is unsuccessful we will gain the understanding of U.S. public opinion, making it difficult for the administration to apply pressure on Israel. It is difficult to think of alternative approaches carrying similar opportunities.

SHARON RESPONDS TO CRITICS ON SETTLEMENTS ISSUE

TA1709307 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Aug 78 p 10 TA

[By Uri Dan]

[Excerpts] This week history repeated itself. For hours on end the Israel broadcasting stations repeated the announcement about the establishment of five settlements, reported the so-called "angry" and "surprised" reactions from Washington, Paris and Cairo, and commented on the enormous damage caused to Israel and its cabinet.

This time Menahem Begin did not have opposition members like himself who, when in the opposition, kept his mouth shut on defense issues. The Knesset members from the Alinement poured oil on the fire.

In the 2 weeks that preceded the radio broadcasts, the cabinet's opponents spread rumors--some of which were totally unfounded--about "secret footholds" and about "illegal activity," so to speak, by Minister Ari'el Sharon. However, the cabinet did not deem it urgent to comment on the rumors, especially after the surprise caused by the invitation to Camp David.

The arrows were primarily aimed at Minister Ari'el Sharon, who was described as "the one who is jeopardizing peace at a time when a chance for peace can be seen at Camp David." The image that Sharon's opponents are trying to ascribe to him--the image of "a war-loving general" who "disobeys orders and disregards decisions"--provides ample opportunity for his adversaries to attribute to him another, so-called "extraordinary act"--that of establishing footholds in the Jordan Valley. There is a reason for this: The cabinet's opponents have long regarded Sharon as the main pillar of stability in the cabinet and a significant supporter of Menahem Begin and his policies, and it is consequently important for them to undermine Sharon's status.

This week, Sharon told me: "This is propaganda in a very specific style, which follows the well-known theory that the bigger the lie and the more it is repeated, the more people will believe it. Irresponsible members of the opposition are prepared to do anything, even to the extent of sabotaging the peace process, in order to return to power."

"The current cabinet," Sharon continued, "of which I am a member, has done and is continuing to do more for peace than any other cabinet. However, they want to present me--viciously, maliciously and purposefully--as the one who will be responsible for the next war. This is being done by all those who, under the hypocritical guise of peace-lovers, are jeopardizing the negotiations which the cabinet is interested in conducting, so that if peace efforts fail--as they hope in their scheme--they will be able to find a scapegoat: me."

Sharon summed up: "I hereby declare that they will not succeed, just as they have not succeeded in the past 25 years in which they have fought against me. They called me "a political novice" when I established the Likud. I fenced the Rafah Approaches in accordance with definite orders from the cabinet and the prime minister. They tried to present me as someone who violated orders on the Suez Canal [front] during the Yom Kippur War; but it was later revealed that, in fact, I had obeyed too many orders during that war--orders which were defined by the Agranat Committee as erroneous while those responsible for issuing them have long since been dismissed from office and have disappeared from the public arena. From the Rafah Approaches to the Jordan Valley, I have only been fulfilling explicit decisions made by the cabinet.

"Not even one bulldozer and not even one crane moved without the proper approval of the cabinet and its committees. I am convinced that neither the cabinet nor I as a member of it have anything to be ashamed of in that respect. Anyone who is well versed in the peace plans knows how much the footholds and the settlements have contributed to the generosity the cabinet has demonstrated-- and could still demonstrate--in the course of the negotiations for peace."

YADIN SPEAKS AT DMC COUNCIL ON SETTLEMENTS, SUMMIT

TA171810Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Aug 78 TA

[Text] DMC Chairman Prof Yiga'el Yadin said that the movement council's deliberations which began this evening should have been festive but they are being conducted in the shadow of a deep crisis that endangers the continued existence of the movement. The deputy prime minister argued with those who attacked him over the issue of the five settlements and stressed that the government had not taken any implementative decisions on this issue.

As for the Camp David talks, Yadin said that their great advantage lay in there being no fixed agenda or date for their completion. If the meeting results in greater understanding and the finding of a path for continuation of the negotiations this would be of great importance, Professor Yadin said.

YADIN MOTION DEFEATED IN DMC COUNCIL VOTE

TA172111Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin failed this evening in the DMC council when a motion that he supported did not win a majority and a motion which he opposed was passed.

About an hour ago, the council passed MK David Golomb's proposal to conduct a discussion on the state of the movement and only afterwards elect the chairman and institutions of the movement, by a majority of 59 to 57. MK Yadin opposed the motion and supported the position of the movement's secretary to hold the elections within a week. Minister Me'ir 'Amit supported Mr Golomb's proposal.

MK Amnon Rubinstein said that the DMC leadership must accept the results of the vote or resign. At the same time he stressed that a dispute within the DMC should not split the movement, but that it was impossible to continue to conceal the dispute. In answer to a question from our correspondent, Asher Schwartz, Mr Rubinstein said that when the time is ripe he will submit his motion to leave the government.

Mr Yadin is presently consulting his confidants, including Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir.

LIBERAL PARTY DISSATISFIED WITH ITS ROLE IN LIKUD

TA181025Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 78 p 5 Weekend Supplement TA

[Avner Tavori article: "Weizman: 'Moda'i Follows Sharon, Nissim Looks at Begin, and Ehrlich Is Busy with the Treasury'"]

[Text] At a meeting that took place last week between several leaders of the Liberal Party, the question of relations between the Liberals and Herut was raised, among other things. Several Knesset members who participated in the deliberations complained that the party did not, in fact, have any influence on the government's political line. One of the participants said that he had asked Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman if the Liberal Party ministers were helping him in moderating the government's positions.

To this Weizman answered: "Minister Yizhaq Moda'i follows Arik Sharon, Moshe Nissim is always looking into Begin's eyes and rushes to support everything he says. Ehrlich is busy in the treasury, and only Gid'on Pat is occasionally of help."

At the same meeting, some members of the faction said: "If Begin is allowed to deviate from the principles of Herut (as he did with respect to Sinai) then the Liberal Party certainly has the right to demand a political approach based on the search for a compromise and not create the impression through silence that the Liberals support the ideological line of the Herut movement.

Pressure has recently been applied on Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich by members of the Liberal faction to be more active in the political sphere. One of them said: Ehrlich has 15 Knesset members and he does not make himself heard."

However, it appears that the Liberals themselves do not have much belief in their power. MK Yosef Tamir spoke about this: "Moshe Shamir, Ge'ula Kohen and Hayyim Druckman dare to vote against the government in the Knesset. The Liberals do not. The most that they have done up to now is leave the hall during the vote."

There is no doubt that the difficulty facing the Liberals arises from the lack of a unified position among its members on political issues. When Gahal (Herut-Liberal bloc) was established, it was assumed that the Liberals would be a moderating influence on the united body. However, after the 6-Day War the Liberal positions became much more extreme, with many of the members speaking in the style of Herut.

The disunited positions of its ministers in political deliberations in the government has added to the confusion of the Liberals. Thus, for example, at this week's cabinet meeting Minister Moda'i did not support the proposal that the government postpone deliberations on the Jordan Valley settlements until after "Camp David."

However, there is at least one issue on which the Liberals are almost totally united in their views as compared with the members of Herut. This refers to matters of religion and state. However, here, too, the Liberals are unsuccessful in manifesting their views--either in deliberations or in votes. It transpires that while, in the agreement establishing Gahal the Liberals kept the right to vote freely on matters of religion and conscience, this clause was for some reason forgotten in the agreement to establish the Likud. Thus, the Liberals found themselves in a situation in which the DMC and the religious parties could vote freely on matters of conscience or principle while the liberals were prevented from manifesting their views and had to vote in favor of laws which they opposed, such as the law on missionary activity, on who is a Jew, on the recruitment of girls and so forth.

No one in the Herut movement is upset about this ferment among its partners in the Likud, and one gains the impression that it is treating this lightly. One of the leaders of Herut said: "We came to the government with a much stronger personnel composition than the Liberals--Begin, 'Ezer, Arik, Dayan--and what did the Liberals bring? A gallery of party activists and not one personality of any stature."

It is mentioned in Herut that Ehrlich was not enthusiastic when offered the finance portfolio. "He could have brought in an economic personality from the outside," it is said in Herut. "Why did he not do this?"

Against the Liberals' claim that they got thankless jobs in the government having no contact with the public (except for the construction portfolio), Herut people reply: "The Liberals have no public. They have a center comprised of 200 members and everything is decided there among a group of activists. The Liberals have no ties with the public in the neighborhoods and among the ethnic groups who are the backbone of the Likud."

The Liberals admit that they are, to no small degree, responsible for the situation that has arisen. Ehrlich is buried in matters of his ministry and when decisive things happen in foreign policy (such as Vance's visit to Israel), he goes abroad. Every time he is asked about his position on political issues, Ehrlich's deputy, Yehezqel Flumin, answers: "Leave me alone. I only deal in treasury matters. I do not intervene in political issues."

Even with reference to matters of conscience the Liberals do not show much enthusiasm. Thus, for example, when MK Yedidya Be'eri raised the matter of the recruitment of girls at the Liberal Center, only 13 of the 200 members of the center participated in the vote. "It simply didn't interest the others," Be'eri said.

The chairman of the Herut faction in the Likud, Hayyim Kaufman, says: "A full merger of the two factions in the Likud would solve the problem for the Liberals. From talking with them I have gained the impression that they feel that they do not influence policy. Uniting the factions would give them possibility of acting in places where they are weak today, in which there are strong branches of the Herut movement, such as Jerusalem, for example."

However, the Liberals fear that a merger would wipe them off the political map, and Kaufman is therefore prepared to recommend a proposal raised by Yigal Kohen of La'am. His proposal suggests the establishment of a joint center for Herut, the Liberals and La'am in which the ratio of forces presently existing in the Likud institutions and in the Knesset list would be maintained. Only after the coming elections would a total merger take place.

It is said in Herut that the situation of the Liberals on the political market is at its lowest. One Herut Knesset member rhetorically asked: "What do they have to offer? If they go with the Alinement they will disappear within it and the Alinement would make political capital at their expense. If they go with the DMC it would be between two cripples." In the Knesset there are, in fact, three blocs with a wide electoral base--the Labor Party, the religious parties and Herut: What is the electoral base of the Liberals?"

It appears that the Liberals, to some extent, admit their predicament and last week one of their leaders said at a meeting of members: "The Independent Liberals are physically finished. The non-Independent Liberals are spiritually finished."

BEIRUT EVENTS CARRIES RABIN COMMENT ON PEACE PROSPECTS

LD171435Y Beirut EVENTS in English 25 Aug 78 p 13 LD

[EVENTS correspondent's interview with former Israeli Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin, granted "prior to the announcement of the Camp David summit"]

[Text] Q: On what did you base your recent criticism of President as-Sadat?

A: I think that he made a mistake by trying to divide the Israelis. Serious negotiations on essential issues cannot take place with the leader of the opposition or one "favourite" minister. As-Sadat's attacks on Begin have rebounded. People in the opposition and coalition alike, including many who are opposed to Begin's policy, cannot approve of As-Sadat's boycott of Israel's prime minister, and of trying to choose his own partners to the talks. This aggressive move from As-Sadat, to my mind, enhanced Begin's position.

Q: What about Begin who, at the reception for Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil at the opening of the political talks in Jerusalem, drew an analogy between As-Sadat and Hitler?

A: The government has not been infallible and they were also mistaken in starting settlements in Sinai on the eve of the talks. Some of the government spokesmen made unwise statements. We should not live in the past, but try to shape the future. Anyway some of these mistakes were corrected--no new settlements in Sinai and about the same in the West Bank.

Q: But don't you hear about "secret" projects?

A: I don't believe it. Anyway these are not in Sinai. And the stumbling block is that we are dealing with Egypt, at its request, on the future of the West Bank and Gaza. I suggest that we arrive immediately at a peace pact with Egypt, because there are no territorial problems to prevent it.

Q: What about the settlements in the Rafah zone?

A: I think that the Israelis should recognise at once the principle of Egyptian sovereignty over all Sinai, and discuss some mutual modification of the international borders between the two countries. This should be possible; after all, Sinai only became part of Egypt in 1906 when Britain wanted to push the Ottoman Empire away from the Suez Canal.

Q: Do you expect Egypt to sign a separate peace with Israel, and sever its relations with the other Arab states?

A: No. I suggest a declaration of principles under which: 1. The Israeli Government should undertake in principle that the Security Council Resolution 242 is valid on all fronts, including the withdrawal from territories--not the or all territories. 2. The final agreement should come after the five year period when the regions from which Israel has agreed to withdraw will be returned to Arab sovereignty. 3. In the talks about the future of the Palestinians, an elected representative of the territories would take part, on an equal level with the Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian delegations.

Q: What will happen in the meantime?

A: I am not opposed to the idea of self rule administration for that period.

Q: What would happen if PLO supporters were elected?

A: I am willing to talk to any elected representative from the territories, including those identified with the PLO, like Karim Khalaf (the mayor of Ramallah), but not with 'Arafat.

Q: Why wait five years?

A: First of all because Egypt is the only party which is willing to make peace with us. Then because we cannot, now, accept the Arab demands over the West Bank and they cannot accept ours, so let us conclude an agreement where it is possible, and postpone the final agreement on the other more contentious problems. We must commit ourselves to solve all issues in dispute within the limit of five years.

Q: But the Arabs will say that Israel needs a period of five years to swallow the occupied territories by setting up more and more settlements?

A: No, on the contrary, I want this time to create confidence between the parties. Peace is an unknown experience to both sides. I hope that after a short period of real peace between Egypt and Israel many people will be ready to admit that they were mistaken. People need to know this experience. No more settlements should be established in the meantime.

Q: So you suggest keeping the status quo. Does this include Jerusalem?

A: As you know there is a national consensus in Israel that united Jerusalem should always be the capital of Israel. I am willing to support (mayor of Jerusalem) Teddy Kollek's proposals to divide the municipalities into sectors to allow the Arab residents municipal self administration. For the holy Moslem and even Christian places, I suggest the Arabs be allowed to decide who is to administer them. We should not have anything to do with these places.

Q: What should the Americans do now, in view of the failure of the direct talks?

A: The Americans should prepare a summit in Washington in which Carter should meet both Begin and As-Sadat and help them to overcome their personal antagonism. As-Sadat's participation is essential because he runs Egyptian politics in an authoritarian way.

Q: And what about the Israeli Government and the claim that it is run as a one-man-show?

A: I think that it is more so in Egypt. Anyway, this is another argument for talks between Begin and As-Sadat.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES LAND IN WEST BANK

TA171936Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] The Israel Lands Authority has purchased almost 25,000 dunams in Judaea and Samaria as well as 5,300 dunams in eastern Jerusalem since 1967. Ya'aqov Waknin, the head of the Lands Authority, told our correspondent that it was preferable that private land become government land.

SOUTHERN LEBANON'S MAJOR SHIDYAQ INTERVIEWED

TA171308Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Maj Sami Shidyaq visited the Good Fence in Dovev this morning. Our correspondent, Ya'aqov Peri'el, spoke with the major, who wears a beard and glasses. [begin recording]

[Peri'el--in Hebrew] Major Shidyaq, what is the situation in your sector?
[Shidyaq--in Hebrew] Now the situation is calm. There are no battles or anything else.
[Question] If the Lebanese contingent reaches Tibnin, will it constitute a danger to you and your men?
[Answer] Certainly. Tibnin is very near my lines.
[Question] So what are you doing to prevent them from going there?
[Answer] I might, perhaps, agree to their being in Tibnin, but the militia, the militia men do not agree.
[Question] Do you have a link with Beirut?
[Answer] Yes, I have a link with Beirut. I speak with Beirut every day. I have an instrument of communications.
[Question] With whom do you talk?
[Answer] With the Defense Ministry in Beirut and with the Lebanese forces.
[Question] Do you receive instructions, military orders?
[Answer] No, the link with the army is only an administrative one. I do not receive military orders from them.
[Question] Who pays you?
[Answer] The Government of Lebanon.
[Question] You continue to receive salaries?
[Answer] Yes, I do, as well as all my men.
[Question] From Beirut?
[Answer] Yes.
[Question] Every week, every month?
[Answer] Every month.
[Question] When was the last time you received your pay?
[Answer] About a month ago.
[Question] In what shape are the houses in your area, in view of the approaching winter?
[Answer] The inhabitants have restored all the houses.
[Question] Are they doing this now?
[Answer] Yes, yes, they have finished. We did have 3 months of calm.
[Question] And how is the morale?
[Answer] The morale is very good.
[Question] What do you expect will happen with the expiration of the UNIFIL mandate?
[Answer] Nobody knows.
[Question] Are you afraid? Are you apprehensive?
[Answer] No. [end recording]

PARS ANALYZES RECENT EVENTS, BLAMES 'FANATICS'

LD181005Y Tehran PARS in English 0659 GMT 18 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 17 Aug PANA (PARS News Agency)--Iran has seen violent unrest and scattered uprisings in the past months. A country, which till 1.5 years ago was known as one of the most stable countries in the world and where peace and security reigned, has been suddenly threatened by violence and subversion. Although the wave of violence that has invaded Iran is far from menacing the national security of the country and although the authorities are in control of the situation, the fact still remains that total peace and security no longer reign in our country. Many inside and outside Iran wonder why this has happened and are looking for the sources of the trouble. The interpretations are varied as far as details are concerned and the remedies proposed differ, but all agree on the basic elements that are behind the recent events in Iran.

Iran has rapidly moved from being a backward country fit for the Middle Ages to an economically and socially developed country. Rapid development and drastic changes in the structure of a country are generally accompanied by discrepancies and problems. In order to understand what is happening in the country at present a quick review of Iran's recent history is necessary.

Iran was a backward and unstable country when Reza Shah the Great, the father of the present shahanshah, came to power in 1921. Reza Shah brought security to the country and gave it a strong central government. Then he started a wave of reforms that were continued and accelerated by the present shahanshah. Although a lot had been done by the 1960s, the need for an overall reform of the structure of the country was strongly felt, and this was why his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr initiated in 1962 what was to be later known as the shah-people revolution. The revolution, unlike the bloody ones experienced in many countries, was a peaceful venture that came from the top and which was supported by the almost all of the Iranian. [as received] In 1962 the shahanshah started the revolution by announcing its first principle, the land reform. This put an end to the feudal system in Iran, and the farmers were no longer mere serfs but owners of their own land and active citizens. The land reform was followed by a series of reforms that totally transformed the economic and social structure of the country. The shah-people revolution gave women, who were still second class citizens, the right to vote, transformed workers into partners of employers by selling them shares in public and private productive units, and by allowing them a share in the profits of the workshops and factories instituted free education in the country, started a system where the army came to the aid of the other citizens by forming the literacy, health, and the development corps, revolutionized health services, brought about one of the most advanced social security systems in the world, nationalised the country's natural resources and on the whole brought about a total transformation in the economic and social situation of the country.

The rise in the price of oil and the gaining of total sovereignty over the oil resources of the country increased the national wealth, and this, combined with the 18 principles of the shah-people revolution, caused Iran to become an economically developed country.

But, in order to become a developed country, more had to be done. Economic and social development had to be accompanied by political development, as the shahanshah has often stressed these past few years. In the mid-1970s Iran was facing a basic discordance between a developed economy and social system and relatively backward political infrastructure. It takes but a few years to develop a country economically, but it takes a generation to change the mentality of the people and give them time to adapt to the other changes. In order to encourage people to participate in the decisionmaking process and to activate them politically.

The Rastakhiz Party, encompassing the totality of the Iranian nation which replaced the former inefficient two-party system, was founded in 1975. Contrary to one-party systems in other parts of the world where only a happy few are members, the Rastakhiz Party was set as an arena to encourage people to discuss political issues and become politically involved. All could join the party and all could discuss issues of national interest with its network. But this was not enough.

Political apathy still reigned and the need for new developments was felt. The atmosphere of free discussion and freedom of political opinion which had been initiated through the establishment of the Rastakhiz Party gradually developed and culminated in the present situation as reflected by the shahanshah's recent statements. According to the shahanshah, Iran is to become a democracy as the term is understood in liberal Western countries. The shahanshah's statement on August 4, 1978, on the occasion of constitution day in Iran, stressed that Iranians will have total political freedom (freedom of speech, freedom to hold political gatherings and form political groups, and freedom of the press) all within laws similar to those existing in liberal countries and within limits of peace and security. The liberalisation policy which began a few years ago has therefore gained new impetus in recent months. As the shahanshah has stressed in his recent statements, nothing will prevent this process from being implemented and continued.

To summarise, one can say that all the elements necessary for political, social, and economic development are already present. The principles of the revolution on the one hand and the political liberalisation on the other hand offered the nation the ideal setting to move towards the great civilisation. The possibilities are there and the laws and provisions all point towards Iran becoming a developed and liberal country.

It is therefore legitimate to wonder why some groups of Iranians create unrest and resort to violence at present. What are they seeking and what are they trying to achieve? In a country where legitimate discontent can find a voice in peaceful groupings and organisations, why should individuals choose an unlawful and destructive way to show their discontent? All these questions lead to only one logical conclusion: The elements behind the recent troubles in Iran are trying their best to stop rather than encourage this wave of reforms. It should be stressed at this point that many people who have participated in recent uprisings are excluded from our analysis as they have been lured into protest through their innocence and naivete. Many have been used as instruments by a minority without realising what the true aims and objectives of their instigators were.

We now turn to those actually responsible for the recent trouble and violence. These people, and this can be said with total confidence, feel menanced by the wave of reforms begun two decades ago and continuing into the present.

The shah-people revolution opposed the interests of a privileged few who thereby lost many advantages and a great deal of power. Equality of all Iranian citizens, as laid down by the shah-people revolution, did not appeal to a minority which had enjoyed great wealth and unlimited advantages in the pre-1960s period.

On the other hand, as the country moved towards becoming modern and highly developed, as women became more and more active in society, as prejudice and social taboos were gradually removed, the traditional fanaticism that had reigned among the population was threatened. Those, therefore, who played on the fanatic beliefs of the population to achieve their own interests and to exercise power felt endangered.

The fanatical elements, an endangered species in modern Iran, have therefore made a desperate move accompanied by violence and unrest to restore their powers and to push the country back into the Dark Ages. Unfortunately, innocent citizens have been used in this scheme through a systematic brainwashing. The group that had lost its unfair advantages and privileges because of the revolution, and the group of fanatics that is basically opposed to reform and modernization in Iran--accompanied and encouraged by some foreign elements that are politically against the development of Iran--have therefore threatened peace and security in Iran in the past months. There is no doubt that what these people want runs counter to the interests of the Iranian nation as whole, and it is unfortunate that some individuals do not realize this. [Words indistinct] framework which is provided to them at present they could, instead of resorting to violence and the destruction of public and private property and killing innocent Iranians, form political groups as allowed by the law, express their opinion through the press, and try to put an end to discrepancies and difficulties which are part of each country's developing process through positive action and honest participation in Iran's effort to develop. Their refusal to do this indicates that they in fact do desire a return to the Dark Ages which would mean the collapse of the present economic system, the return of the women to their traditional roles of uneducated childbearers and housekeepers hidden behind the veils, the revocation of political freedoms and the concentration of decision making in the hands of a small groups of religious fanatics.

WORKERS AFFIRM SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES

LD180952Y Tehran PARS in English 0735 GMT 18 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran, 17 Aug, PANA (PARS News Agency)--At gatherings throughout the country on Thursday, workers affirmed that they would always remain patriotic soldiers in the preservation of the Iranian monarchy and Iran's security and would not let a handful of rioters harm Iranian prestige. While agreeing with the government's measures to preserve security, the workers asked the government to severely punish those who had caused riots in Esfahan and Shiraz.

Businessmen Announce Support

LD180954Y Tehran PARS in English 0738 GMT 18 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran, 17 Aug, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Representatives of bazaar tradesmen (Tehran's major market) and Tehran guilds released an announcement on Thursday in which they confirmed their full support for the measures the government has taken to suppress the destructive elements who have disturbed people's peace by attacking economic institutes and public building in Tehran. The bazaar tradesmen totally denied publishing the booklets which have been distributed in their names. The tradesmen stated that the destructive and profit-seeking elements who distributed booklets in the names of bazaar tradesmen and guilds have asked the shopkeepers to close their shops. Their main objective, the announcement said, has been to harm the national economy and trade activities.

HUA KUO-FENG TO ARRIVE FOR VISIT 29 AUGUST

LD161202Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] We now continue with a report that Hua Kuo-feng will arrive in Bucharest today on the first leg of his tour of Romania, Yugoslavia and Iran. Romania and Yugoslavia, unlike other East European countries, do not follow the Soviet Union in their domestic and foreign policies. For this reason, political observers regard Hua Kuo-feng's visit to Romania and Yugoslavia as a confirmation of the Chinese policy to keep as far away from the Soviet Union as possible. Following his visit to Romania, Hua Kuo-feng will go to Yugoslavia and will leave for Tehran on 29 August for a visit to our country.

AFGHANISTAN

ATTEMPTED COUP REPORTED FOILED; DEFENSE MINISTER ARRESTED

BK171718Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Kabul Radio has reported the unearthing of a plot against the government and the arrest of the defense minister, Brig Gen Abdol Qader. The radio broadcast tonight a communique of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party which says that the Afghan Government has checked in time the subversive activity of dishonest elements working against the interests of the people.

The communique says a number of dishonest people have been involved in the plot and have been arrested. Kabul Radio said the portfolio of the defense minister will be taken over by President Nur Mohammad Taraki.

Further Arrests Reported

OW172027Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2014 GMT 17 Aug 78 OW

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Aug, 17 (AFP)--Radio Kabul in its Pushtu language bulletin said the chief of the army staff, Major General Shahpur, was also arrested along with chief of Jamhooriat Hospital Dr Mir Ali Akbar on charges of plotting the coup with the help of Defense Minister Abdol Qader Dagarwal.

The defence minister had played a major role in the April 27 coup in which President Daud was killed and the leftwing government of Nur Mohammad Taraki was established.

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, IRAQ SIGN TRADE PACT IN DACCA

JN171632Y Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 17 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Dacca, 17 August--Iraq and Bangladesh today agreed to set up a joint committee on trade between the two countries.

In an agreement signed here tnis afternoon at the conclusion of the first official talks between high-level representatives of the governments, it was agreed to make special efforts to increase substantially the volume of the existing trade between the two countries and to introduce new items in their mutual trade exchanges.

The agreement was signed by Mr Faruk Dawud, director general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Iraqi Trade Ministry, and Mr Chodhury Aminul Huq, joint secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Trade in Bangladesh.

The agreement stated that in the course of a review of bilateral trade, Bangladesh agreed to increase her import of crude oil and refined petroleum products from Iraq.

Bangladesh also agreed to consider favourably the import of urea and ammonium sulphate, sulphur, dates and other items from Iraq. In return, Iraq agreed to import from Bangladesh items such as electric wires and telephone cables, paper newsprint, hard board, tea, sugar, potatoes, fruits and timber besides raw jute, jute goods, tanned leather, spices and tamarind.

INDIA

SHEKHAR TO STEP DOWN AS JANATA PARTY PRESIDENT

BK1716l2Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Mr Chandra Shekhar is stepping down as the Janata Party's president. He has suggested that Mr Charan Singh should be asked to take over the post.

Talking to newsmen a short while ago, Mr Chandra Shekhar said he made the suggestion at today's meeting of the union cabinet taking into consideration the overall interest of the party. But he added that since the cabinet was not the proper forum for taking a decision, the matter will be placed before the party's national executive. Mr Chandra Shekhar said that as party workers overwhelmingly desire to maintain unity, his formula is the best under these circumstances. Since Mr Charan Singh is free from administrative duties, his services should be utilized for the party organization.

In reply to a question, Mr Chandra Shekhar said he had evolved his formula when he found that the mediation efforts to end the crisis in the party had reached a stalemate. He said he will try and persuade those who are opposed to his suggestion.

The prime minister and the former home minister, Mr Charan Singh, had a 30-minute meeting in New Delhi this evening. Emerging from the talks, Mr Morarji Desai told newsman that the talks are going on and the two will meet again. Asked about the outcome of today's meeting, the prime minister replied: You will know the outcome.

The meeting between the prime minister and Mr Charan Singh followed the developments this morning. The union cabinet had an informal meeting. Afterwards, three ministers--Mr Advani, Mr George Fernandes and Mr Biju Patnaik--had talks with Mr Charan Singh. The cabinet meeting was also attended by Mr Chandra Shekhar.

The meeting of the parliamentary party executive scheduled for this morning and the parliamentary party in the evening were canceled. Mr Raj Narain postponed his statement which was to be made in the Lok Sabha today. Mr Raj Marain also had a meeting with the prime minister for 45 minutes.

Mr Jayaprakash Narayan has expressed happiness over the reported settlement by top Janata Party leaders to bring about unity in the party. According to PTI when he was informed of the decision taken at an informal meeting of the union cabinet, Mr Narayan said it was a matter of pleasure.

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON VAJPAYEE'S VISIT TO JAPAN

BK1714S4Y Delhi ISI in English 1436 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text of 16 August "joint press release" issued after first consultative meeting of Indian and Japanese foreign ministers in Tokyo]

[Text] The first consultative meeting of the minister of foreign affairs of Japan and the minister of external affairs of India was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo from 14-16 August 1978. In accordance with the agreement reached between the two sides to upgrade the meeting to ministerial level, Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda led the Japanese team and External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the Indian team.

The ministers had two rounds of talks preceded by one at official level. The Japanese team included Masao Kanazawa, ambassador of Japan to India; M. Takashima and H. Miyazaki, deputy ministers for foreign affairs; and Y. Nakae, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau. The Indian team included Avtar Singh, ambassador of India to Japan; M.A. Vellodi, secretary; and C.V. Ranganathan, joint secretary.

A.B. Vajpayee called on Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, Minister of Finance Tatsuo Murayama, Minister of International Trade and Industry Toshio Komoto, Minister of Construction Yoshio Sakurauchi and Minister for External Economic Affairs Nobuhiko Ushiba.

International issues of mutual interest such as the situation in India, the Middle East and southern Africa, disarmament, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the North-South problem, the Bonn summit of industrialised nations and the nonalignment movement as well as bilateral relations between the two countries were covered during the discussions. They agreed on the need to reduce tensions and enhance stability in Asia to endure the more rapid economic growth and development of the countries of the region. It was felt that Japan and India could cooperate in various fields towards this end.

Both sides agreed to promote bilateral relations in economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields. To this end the ministers agreed that dialogues at various appropriate levels between the two countries would be valuable. Sunao Sonoda specifically thanked A.B. Vajpayee for his help in respect of the Imphal memorial mission sent in January 1978.

It was agreed that the second consultative meeting should be held in New Delhi on a date to be mutually agreed upon.

U.S. TO FREEZE DIEGO GARCIA BASE CONSTRUCTION TO 1975 LEVEL

BK171057Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The United States has assured India to freeze its military base construction in Diego Garcia to the 1975 level. This was disclosed by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundu, in the Lower House today. The house was informed that the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, discussed the Diego Garcia question with President Carter during his visit to the United States.

INDIA TALKING TO PAKISTAN ON INFILTRATION OF KASHMIR

BK181052Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 78 BK

[Text] India is taking up with the Pakistan Government the reported statements of some political figures of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir signifying hostile plans and intentions against the country. All intelligence and security agencies have been alerted to prevent any sabotage, subversion or infiltration from Pakistan. This was stated in an official statement in Parliament yesterday.

Defense Minister Comments

BK170946Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The defense minister assured the Lok Sabha today that any attempt to threaten our security will meet with a firm and befitting response. The armed forces and security organizations are maintaining the utmost vigilance and preparedness. Mr Jagjivan Ram was replying to a calling attention motion by Mr Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, Congress, and four others on the reported preparations for massive Pakistani infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir.

The defense minister confirmed that some individual intruders from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have been recently apprehended. Close interrogation is underway. Mr Jagjivan Ram said it would not be prudent to disclose the result of the interrogation at this stage. While Mr Jagjivan Ram did not rule out the possibility of infiltration--since the border is not completely sealed--he said that reports of such instances are exaggerated.

VAJPAYEE TO DISCUSS PRC'S NUCLEAR AID FOR PAKISTAN

BK171055Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Parliament has been officially told that during the proposed visit to Peking the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, will also discuss China's reported offer of nuclear technology to Pakistan. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundu, told the Lower House today that so far no authentic report about the Chinese offer has come to the notice of the government. He assured the house that all bilateral issues between China and India will be discussed during Mr Vajpayee's visit.

Mr Kundu said that India considers the Karakoram highway to be a security risk not only to India but also to the entire region.

About the reported confession by a Chinese-trained Pakistan guerrilla that a nuclear base is being planned to be set up by the Chinese in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Mr Kundu said that the evidence from various sources so far available does not confirm the press reports. He said it is true that one person has been apprehended by the Indian security forces, and he is being questioned by the police.

INDIA, BHUTAN UPGRADE REPRESENTATION TO EMBASSY LEVEL

BK161624Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP)--India and the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan have upgraded their missions in each other's capital from "representatives" level to the level of embassies, it was officially announced here today.

Under the Indo-Bhutan Treaty of 1949, Bhutan is to conduct its external relations in consultation with India. Bhutan has its missions only in New Delhi and the United Nations.

DELHI PATRIOT SCORES DESAI'S STAND ON NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL

BK161107Y Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Aug 78 p 2 BK

["Comment" column: "Nuclear Option"]

[Text] The self-righteous gesture of nuclear abnegation made by Prime Minister Morarji Desai on behalf of his country during his U.S. tour has become a commitment difficult to retract from. Washington has made it clear that it is not prepared to accept his later clarifications and is determined to proceed on the assumption that Mr Desai's moralist posture is identifiable with India's policy. It has already taken it for granted that, since Mr Desai has without any sanction, abjured nuclear explosions or "blasts" for even peaceful purposes, it can legitimately order New Delhi to open the country's nuclear installations to imperialist inspection. Now, emboldened further by the supine reaction of the sweetly reasonable Janata regime, it has unabashedly made the implementation of the terms of a contract a matter of negotiation.

It is well known that India's nuclear research has been impeded as much by the American failure to supply enriched uranium as by its refusal to clear the spent fuel rods. The position with regard to uranium supply stands where it was, with what Mr Carter reportedly proposed having been disposed by the U.S. Congress. Now comes the Indian Government's announcement that the United States is still unready to do anything at all about the serious storage problem caused by the spent fuel. And, curiously, while the government's stand so far has been that this amounts to a violation of the agreement between the two countries in this regard, it is now trying to prove that no such breach of contract is involved. Many experts have said that the only way out for India is to start reprocessing of the spend fuel on its own, and there is no indication as yet of official thinking in this regard. The government owes it to the nation to take a firm decision in the matter and announce it in order to allay the genuine apprehensions that have been voiced.

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPLITS FROM PNA

BK1710307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1723 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, Aug 16 (AFP)--The left-wing National Democratic Party today quit the seven-party Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) in view of the alliance's decision to join the government of Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ziaul Haq.

Announcing the decision the National Democratic Party chief, Sardar Sher Baz Mazari, told a press conference here that his party could not remain aligned to a group of politicians who, according to him, had betrayed the principles of democracy, rule of law and the public trust by deciding to join an unelected and unrepresentative government under the umbrella of the martial law.

From today onward the National Democratic Party will act as an independent party and will take its programme of social reforms and restoration of civil liberties and democracy to the people, Mazari said.

The National Democratic Party thus became the third political party to leave the Pakistan National Alliance which fought and lost the April 1977 general elections against former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and subsequently carried out a bitter movement against his government, resulting in his ouster on July 5 last year in a bloodless military take-over by General Ziaul Haq.

The first to quit the national alliance was right-wing Tehrik-I-Istiqlal Party, headed by a former air force chief, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, who developed differences with the PNA leadership soon after the July coup last year.

Jamait-Ulema-I-Pakistan, a religious cum political party, was the second to leave the national alliance last month after a long bickering with the other components of the alliance.

The Pakistan National Alliance, which started as a nine-party alliance, is now left with only six parties--all of them having rightist leanings and supporting the martial law administration of General Ziaul Haq, and whose government they have already decided to join the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Sardar Mazari also announced that the national convention of the National Democratic Party had refused to accept the resignation of the party vice president, Begum Wali Khan, who was recently convicted by a British court in a case of shop-lifting and fined 250 pounds sterling. Sardar Mazari said the charges against Begum Wali Khan were "fictitious, malicious and part of a conspiracy against the Arabs and Asians in Britian."

LIBYA'S JALLUD MEETS WITH HAQ, CHAUDHRY

LD161302Y Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Rawalpindi, 16 August, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud held a number of meetings with the leaders of the Pakistani Government. The fields of cooperation and strengthening of relations between the Jamahiriyah and Pakistan were discussed.

The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY (JANA) correspondents reported that Staff Major Jallud had held a two-hour meeting in Rawalpindi yesterday with Gen Ziaul Haq, the general military ruler of Pakistan.

On the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by the foreign secretary while on the Pakistani side, by the treasury and foreign ministers and Chief of Staff Gen Aref.

JANA correspondents also reported that Staff Major Jallud was received yesterday by Dr Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, the president of Pakistan. The meeting in the residence of the Pakistani president in Rawalpindi was attended by Gen Ziaul Haq and Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary.

Staff Major Jallud has also met in his residence in Rawalpindi, Gen Ziaul Haq in the presence of the foreign secretary.

Attends Banquet

BK171229Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The Libyan vice president, [title as received] Mr 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, has said a new phase of strong relationship between Libya and Pakistan has begun and the friendship between the two countries has passed the phase of relations on a government-to-government basis. He was speaking at the iftar [fast breaking] and dinner given in his honor by the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. He said it is the peoples of the two countries who have prevailed upon their leaders to forge deep and strong relations between them. He said President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and all responsible leaders of Libya rejoice at the fact that Pakistan and Libya were coming closer to each other.

The Libyan vice president said he had come to Pakistan again after his visit to China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue his talks with Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his associates. During the talks they had the occasion to discuss their bilateral relations and forge still deeper bonds of friendship between the two nations. Mr 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a strong plea for the unity of the Islamic world which would enable them to become a great socioeconomic, political and military force to reckon with. He said in this age of association of big powers, countries having nothing in common had forged unity and were drawing closer together. These countries having different ideologies, beliefs and social and economic systems, had forged not only economic but political and military associations. He said unfortunately Moslems, who have to grow together with the great message of Almighty God, did not forge strong ties of unity. This he said could only show the ignorance of the Moslem world as to what was good for them. He said the Moslem people must work for the development of a united Islamic community.

Earlier, the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in his speech, said Pakistan, which was a citadel of Islam, was destined to become a great Islamic and democratic state and there was no reason to feel concerned about its integrity and solidarity. He said Pakistan was endowed with great human and material resources, the exploitation of which would enable it to emerge as a prosperous Islamic state in the true sense. Above all, he emphasized that the people of Pakistan have unshakable faith in Islam which would help them overcome their difficulties and provide means for their progress and prosperity.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan, which was created in the name of Islam, had a unique position in the Islamic world. Therefore, their Moslem brethren were rightly interested in its well-being, integrity and solidarity. He said to him Pakistan's main problem was that some of its people were drifting away from their faith. He however emphasized that the overwhelming majority of the people were true Moslems. If all of us gave all-out attention to our faith, not only would it lead to political stability but would also provide the means to solve our problems.

Earlier during the day the Libyan vice president and the chief martial law administrator held wide-ranging talks in Rawalpindi today on bilateral cooperation and the international situation. During the talks, which lasted two and a half hours, they also reviewed the progress made by the Pakistan-Libya joint ministerial commission. The commission is having its next meeting in Tripoli next month.

Leaves Islamabad

BK1711OOY Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan has offered technical assistance as well as manpower for the reconstruction program in Libya. This was stated by the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, while talking to newsmen after seeing off the Libyan vice president, Mr 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, [title as received] at Islamabad Airport this morning. He said the Libyan vice president and his colleagues have been informed of the fields in which Pakistan could provide technical assistance to Libya.

Asked if he would visit Libya, the CMLA said that he had visited Libya last year and that the Libyan vice president had reciprocated by coming to Pakistan. If need be he will visit Libya again.

The CMLA said that he had had very useful and beneficial talks with the Libyan vice president. He said the visit has further strengthened the friendly relations between the two fraternal countries.

In answer to a question on the development of Pakistani-Libyan economic relations, he said Libya has always helped Pakistan and will continue to do so in the future.

Asked to comment on the reported statement by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah alleging Pakistani infiltration into occupied Kashmir, the CMLA said that he was not aware of any such thing and in fact had seen press reports on this only this morning. He said that Pakistan wants a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem and other differences with India and Afghanistan. He said peace should prevail in the region so that differences can be resolved through talks.

Answering a question about the formation of a new federal cabinet, the CMLA said that he would be holding talks with Pakistan National Alliance [PNA] leaders this afternoon. The formation of a cabinet will depend on the outcome of these talks.

Asked if this would be the final round of the talks, he said that there is no such thing as the word "final" in politics. He said that both sides are optimistic about the outcome of the talks. When asked to comment on the separation of the National Democratic Party from the PNA, the CMLA said that he had seen such reports. Despite this, the PNA still represents some of the major political parties in Pakistan.

Earlier, the CMLA and Begum Ziaul Haq saw the Libyan vice president and Madam Jallud off. The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the deputy chief of army staff and the chiefs of staff of the navy and air force, federal ministers, high civil and military officials and members of diplomatic missions were also present at the airport. The Libyan vice president was honored with a 19-gun salute, and contingents of the three services presented a guard of honor. He left for home after a brief stay in Karachi.

SRI LANKA

PARLIAMENT PASSES NEW CONSTITUTION 16 AUGUST

BK171144Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka's new constitution was passed in the National State Assembly yesterday with 137 members voting for and none against it. The third member for the Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya [constituency] voted for the bill while both the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] and the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] kept away during the voting.

The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, who moved several amendments to the draft during the committee stage, announced that Mr J.R. Jayewardene will take his oath as president under the new constitution on 7 September in the National State Assembly. The controversial Section 157 of the draft, opposed by some members as a denial of fundamental rights, was deleted from the bill. Mr Premadasa said that fundamental rights and political freedoms were insured by the new constitution which would be the precursor to a new era of prosperity.

The minister of justice, Mr K.W. Devanayagam, said that the right of the minority has also been insured by the new constitution. The minorities, he said, would be enjoying many more privileges than under the [word indistinct] constitution.

The minister of trade, Mr Lalith Athulathmudala, announced that the government intended to appoint a constitutional commission which will supervise the implementation of the various provisions of the new constitution.

FRG'S ECONOMICS MINISTER ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

LD171450Y Hamburg DPA in German 1404 GMT 17 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Colombo--Federal Economics Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff arrived in Colombo today for a 3-day visit to Sri Lanka. He will have talks on economic cooperation with Prime Minister Premadasa and other members of the government.

BRIEFS

INDO-AFGHAN MEDICAL AGREEMENT--India and Afghanistan have signed an agreement for providing research and training facilities to Afghan doctors in India. The agreement also provides for the exchange of delegations, information and scientific experience. The agreement was signed in Kabul between the representatives of the Indian Institute of Medical Sciences and the Afghan Institute of Child Welfare. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK]

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